

DENTAL FACILITY COMPLIANCE CHECK LIST

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health – Office of Radiological Health, conducts routine inspections of facilities possessing x-ray generating equipment. The equipment and facility are reviewed to assure their compliance with Title 180 the Nebraska regulations for “Control of Radiation.”

180 NAC Chapter 21 of the regulations, “Dental Radiographic Equipment”, is a stand alone chapter exclusively for dentistry. This chapter contains all the information needed for owners and users of dental x-ray equipment.

Below are highlights of some of the items that will be checked during an inspection.

FACILITY ITEMS

Documentation Needed

- ◆ Current copy of the Nebraska regulations for the “Control of Radiation” (180 NAC 21)

Note: A web browser having the website of www.dhhs.ne.gov/rad bookmarked or added to favorites is acceptable

- ◆ Current “Certification of Registration for Radiation Generating Equipment” must be available.

Note: The Registrant shall notify the Agency in writing within thirty (30) days of any change which would render the information contained in the “Certification of Registration” no longer accurate (180 NAC 21-006.04A)

Operating and Safety Procedures

- ◆ Facilities must develop, document, and implement Operating and Safety Procedures (180 NAC 21-007.03) **Documentation necessary.**

Note: Individuals who are sole practitioners and sole operators are exempt from the requirements of 180 NAC 21-007.03.

Training

- ◆ Documentation of personnel qualifications and Nebraska certification for each employee (180 NAC 21-007.01A, item 2).

Note: Dentists and Dental Hygienists must provide a current license. Dental Assistants must provide a copy of satisfactory completion of a course in dental radiology approved by the Board and the Department OR passed the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam.

- ◆ Written safety procedures need to be provided to each x-ray operator outlining techniques for the safe operation of each x-ray system (180 NAC 21-007.04C). **Documentation necessary.**

Note: Regulatory guide 21.0 has been developed to aid in the development of the facility’s safety procedures.

Note: Individuals who are sole practitioners and sole operators are exempt from the requirements of 180 NAC 21-007.04C.

Posting/Labeling

- ◆ NRH-3 form, "Notice to Employees" posted by each registrant whenever individuals work or frequent any portion of a restricted area (180 NAC 21-007.05C).

Note: Individuals who are sole practitioners and sole operators are exempt from the requirements of 180 NAC 21-007.05B and C.

- ◆ Posted notice of location of documents (180 NAC 21-007.05B2).
- ◆ Technique charts need to be provided in the vicinity of the x-ray system's control panel (21-007.01A.3).

Compliance With Dose Limits To The Public

- ◆ **ALARA:** The registrant must use, to the extent practical, procedures and engineering controls based upon sound radiation protection principles to achieve occupational doses and public doses that are as low as is reasonably achievable (180 NAC 21-007.02)
- ◆ Individual monitoring is not required for personnel operating only diagnostic dental x-ray equipment (180 NAC 21-003.6)
- ◆ The operator must stand at least six feet from the useful beam or behind a protective barrier. (180 NAC 21-007.09C)

MACHINE ITEMS

- ◆ The control panel must include a warning label (180 NAC 21-007.06B).
- ◆ Technique factors (kVp, mA, time, and/or mAs) need to be indicated prior to the exposure (180 NAC 21-007.06A1).
- ◆ Means must be provided for visual indication observable at or from the operator's protected position whenever x-rays are produced. In addition, a signal audible to the operator must indicate that the exposure has terminated (180 NAC 21-007.06A3).
- ◆ The tube housing assembly can not be hand held, the tube head must remain stable during x-ray exposure (180 NAC 21-007.06J).
- ◆ For all dental x-ray equipment, the registrant must perform or cause to be performed, tests necessary to assure proper function of equipment in accordance with 180 NAC 21-007.06G through K and for dental intraoral systems a measurement of the in air exposure at the technique factors used for the average adult bitewing radiography. The tests listed must be performed every 5 years after installation (180 NAC 21-007.10A).

Film Processing

- ◆ Films will be developed in accordance with the time-temperature relations recommended by the film manufacturer. The specified developer temperature for automatic processing and the time-temperature chart for manual processing will be posted in the darkroom (180 NAC-007.12A).

This check list is by no means inclusive. However, it should provide useful information necessary to assure compliance with Title 180.

It is essential to the inspector to have a person from upper management, ultimately the Radiation Safety Officer or their designate, present during the exit interview. At this time results of the inspection can be outlined, questions can be clarified, and a course of action necessary to resolve any item(s) of noncompliance can be reviewed.

If there are any questions regarding x-ray inspections or this document, please direct them to:

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